



**NEWS**

*Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas*  
*L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ridley-Thomas Observes King Birthday by Honoring  
Retired NBC-4 News Reporter/Anchor Furnell Chatman**

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on Tuesday led the chorus of praise by the Board of Supervisors for veteran KNBC 4 news reporter/anchor Furnell Chatman. After 40 years of paving the way for journalists of color, Chatman recently announced his retirement.

Joined by friends and colleagues, Chatman was acknowledged one-by-one by members of the board, each who shared personal experiences with the respected newsman.

Outside of his work as an award-winning television journalist, Chatman has volunteered as master of ceremonies for a variety of community events, including the County's annual 'Volunteer of the Year Awards' luncheon.

"As we approach the birthday observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we celebrate the life of a noble and influential leader. We should also recognize the accomplishments of Furnell Chatman, a trailblazer who broke racial barriers in television news," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. "Furnell defeated the odds when the odds were against him, all the while remaining dedicated to the quality and accurate journalism."

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Chatman spent 35 years at Channel 4 in Los Angeles, an era when network media notables such as Tom Snyder and Tom Brokaw were local anchors, Ross Porter and Bryant Gumbel covered sports, and reporters like John Marshall helped make the station a major news force in L.A.

As a weekend co-anchor on Channel 4 News, Chatman's news coverage was rated as number one. During his time at the station, Chatman has covered nearly every major news event in the Greater Los Angeles area, including earthquakes, post Rodney-King the civil unrest, the 1984 Olympics, brushfires, floods, and the infamous O.J. Simpson "trial of the century."

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